

# THE SWORD OF THE LORD

## and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20.

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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Office: 201 East Tenth St., Phone 6-6883

## CLOSING OUT! Mother's Day Plans

Trial Subscription Campaign Closes  
Wednesday, May 4th

We are grateful to God for the hundreds upon hundreds of subscriptions piling in at the special thirteen-weeks-for ten cents rate. Numbers of people got one single copy of *The Sword of the Lord* and immediately sent trial subscriptions for ten others. One group in Potlatch, Idaho, had a real revival as they read the sermon, *The Curse of Hidden Sins in The Sword of the Lord* a few weeks back. They dug up the golden wedges, the Babylonish garments, and the fifty shekels of silver hid in the floor of their tents, confessed their sins to God and had a time of reconsecration. Then they began sending subscriptions; twenty-five, ten, and twelve, a total of forty-seven trial subscriptions by the same group! Others sent a dime wrapped in paper for one trial subscription. The majority of subscriptions come in groups of ten with a dollar bill inclosed. Many subscribe at the regular rate of fifty cents a year, and an increasing number sent \$1.00 for a three-years' subscription, which of course is the best way for all concerned. This is the best campaign we have had. If we have the grand closing we expect, the number of subscriptions will far surpass any previous campaign. Dear friends, we thank you and gratefully dedicate ourselves to the task of preaching the gospel, teaching God's Word, winning souls and building up the saints through these holy pages.

But the campaign must close. The closing date is Wednesday, May 4th. Please have all subscriptions in the mail by midnight of that date. Send what you have at once, mail others as you can. It would be blessed for every reader to have part in taking the gospel to others. Only eternity can reveal the good you may do by helping us spread the gospel.

From Clinton, Oklahoma, a man writes, saying, "*The Sword of the Lord* has completely changed my life." Last week a letter came from Wipple, Idaho, from a woman who claimed Christ as her Saviour as she read the recent sermon, *I Will Love Thee, O Lord*. We praise God for many, many souls saved of whom we have heard and we trust there have been scores of others about whom we do not know. That was the second we have heard from who was saved through that one sermon. We are confidently hoping to hear from many who will have found Christ through last week's paper and the sermon *What Must I Do to Be Saved*. From Montrose, Pennsylvania, a man writes to tell how, when he was detained over night in another city, the landlady gave him a copy of *The Sword of the Lord*. He read the sermon, *Home Sweet Home* and spent, he said, two hours in reading, meditation and prayer with his soul greatly moved by that message on a Christian home. He is the father of six children and writes, "Your paper was truly *The Sword of the Lord* to me." We can only mention a few but in every day's mail there

are letters to make the angels rejoice as they tell of hearts warmed, problems settled, lives reconsecrated to God, people stirred to soul winning, preachers inspired and frequently of souls saved. There are thousands of people who would subscribe for themselves to *The Sword of the Lord* if some one would send them a trial subscription so they could get acquainted with this paper. We believe that every dime, every dollar, every ten dollars, every hundred dollars invested in this work will bring glorious returns in Heaven, don't you? If God leads you, then invest today in the lives of preachers, Christian workers or unsaved people by sending as many trial subscriptions as you can for ten cents each. Give correct names and addresses and each one will get *The Sword of the Lord* for thirteen weeks. They will receive the message on *The Bible and Booze* and other messages on verbal inspiration, prayer, soul-winning and several evangelistic sermons appealing particularly to unsaved men. If you like, you can

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Sunday, May 8th, is Mother's Day. We at the Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle, Dallas, expect the largest attendance we have had in many months. In the morning service we plan to have a beautiful flower to pin on every mother. We will give a beautiful large print New Testament and Psalms to the oldest mother present and a Scofield Reference Bible to the youngest mother present. There will also be a Scofield Bible or a large print Testament, whichever is preferred for the mother with the largest number of children present. Remember only children present will count. For the youngest baby brought by its mother, we will give a beautiful doll. Our object will be to exalt Christian motherhood. And Pastor John R. Rice will preach on "Mother, Home and Heaven." There will be special music for Mother's Day and it will be a heart-warming time with souls saved, homes dedicated to God and reconsecration. We urge the entire church membership and friends to come if possible by whole families to take part in this blessed, beautiful celebration on Mother's Day. Those whose moth-

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## DALLAS BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 5-12

### SOMEBODY PAID

Several thousand new readers will receive this issue of *The Sword of the Lord*. If you did not subscribe for it, somebody else did. Doubtless somebody who loves you and prays for you subscribed. We hope you courteously and prayerfully read the issues of *The Sword of the Lord* which come to you and receive a blessing. We trust that when you become acquainted with the paper, you will want it as a permanent visitor in your home and will renew your subscription yourself.

*The Sword of the Lord* has one purpose and that is to glorify God by getting out the gospel. We boost no denominational program, we have no fight to make on anything that is good. We hope to be a blessing to every Christian. We prayerfully try to win souls. We believe the whole Bible. We covet your prayers. May *The Sword of the Lord* be a blessing to your heart and your home. Letters from new readers will be appreciated.

We have several happy announcements to make about our Spring Bible School. From Phoenix, Arizona, from Oklahoma City, from Wisconsin and Mississippi and from many places in Texas we have had appeals to conduct the Bible School after school and college commencement exercises are over. Many teachers and students want to come. Therefore, we set June 5th to 12th for our next Dallas Bible School. We will have, we believe, the most attractive program we have ever had. We expect the largest attendance, the greatest manifestation of the power and blessing of God.

Plan your vacation now, if possible, to include these eight rich days in Dallas. We plan to assemble the best program we can get from all over America for these occasions. One main speaker has promised, one of the best Bible teachers in America. We hope to announce full details next week.

There will be all night prayer meetings, heart searching addresses, and conferences on victorious living, house to house visitation, and the public program will close each night with an evangelistic service for the unsaved. As far as possible, we will provide bed and breakfast for ministers and their wives. Good rooms and meals may be obtained near the tabernacle inexpensively. Preachers planning to come please write us at once to reserve rooms.

## "TODAY!"

Why Sinners Should Be Saved Today

(Sunday Night Sermon of Dr. John R. Rice, April 3, 1938, Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle, Dallas, Texas. Stenographically reported)

In Hebrews the third chapter, the Lord says three times that *today* is the day of salvation. In the fourth chapter of Hebrews, God says again one time that *today* is the day of salvation. Let me read you those verses. Begin with verse seven in chapter three.

"Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith), today if ye will hear his voice,

"Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness."

Now begin with verse twelve:

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

"But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

And verse fifteen:

"While it is said, today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation."

And now, skipping to the fourth chapter, begin with verse one:

"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

"For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

"For we which have believed do not enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest; although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

"For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

"And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

"Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief."

Now verse seven:

"Again he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

Today, then, today, today! TODAY! Oh, today if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart!

I now turn to II Corinthians the sixth chapter and read you again this same kind of teaching. Begin with verse two.

"For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

I have a two-fold purpose tonight in this message. My first intention is that Christian people tonight — my own soul and yours — will be aroused to get people saved today. Today is the day of salvation. If you ever expect to win any

souls, you had better do it today. If you ever expect to see anybody saved, you had better find tonight who you can win, tonight before you leave this building, tonight before the midnight hour comes, for before tomorrow morning comes on, it may be too late. Christian people had better tonight get their loved ones saved. Now is the time for salvation for the loved ones you want to see saved.

I want to press on the heart of anybody who is not a Christian, anybody who doesn't know he is saved, I want to press on your heart and urge you to settle it now once for all, forever, before you leave your seat, before this opportunity is gone, before this tender moving of the Spirit leaves you, before this service is over, before you go to sleep, before another day is gone, and another opportunity is gone, I want to urge you *today* is the day of salvation. "Today if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart." "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" as the Scripture said.

### Souls Are Immortal

I would like to give you some reasons why that if anybody is ever to be saved, he had better be saved now. A number of those things press hard on my heart. I hope you will remember then that people should be saved today. First of all, people ought to be saved today because there are certain great facts which are often neglected but are true, and if you go on and don't win your boy to Christ, you are neglecting several facts. One is, you are forgetting first of all that he has an immortal soul. In Fort Worth I drove over to a friend's house. His little ten year old girl climbed up on the

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## HAPPY SERVICES AT DECATUR

Last Monday night the editor spoke by invitation of Pastor Scott W. Hickey at the neat tabernacle of the Fundamental Baptist Church at Decatur, Texas. A large crowd was present and the Spirit of God was manifest. There were many praises and public testimony and one woman joyfully praised the Lord aloud in old fashioned shouting. A fourteen-year-old boy trusted Christ. The fellowship was sweet. We were pleased to learn that the church was prospering, attendance is much increased, and Pastor Hickey is greatly loved by his people.

We intend to report, also, a recent happy visit with pastor W. O. Majors and the Lamar Street Baptist Church, Greenville, Texas. The house was full when we spoke. Other visiting preachers were Brethren Forest Johnson of Paris, Parkins and McClain from Commerce and Richard Ausburn of Dallas. These brethren helped in the service and prayed while the editor preached. There were two professions of faith. The fellowship was sweet.

Hear "Ten Sure Roads to Hell and Why," Sunday night sermon of John R. Rice at the big Tabernacle, 201 East Tenth Street, Dallas. Morning sermon, "The Glory of Work." Don't miss Sunday School at 9:45.

Hear John R. Rice  
Radio WRR  
7:30 A. M. Sunday



## CLOSING OUT!

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have the trial subscriptions begin with last week's issue with the two articles on *What Must I Do to Be Saved?* by the editor, and *Repeal, Weighed and Found Wanting* by Rev. Sam Morris.

## Thousands of Preachers Need The Sword of the Lord

We have prayed that God would put it on the hearts of His people to subscribe for thousands of preachers who need *The Sword of the Lord* and to do it during this trial subscription campaign. We have the names and correct addresses of about 3,600 preachers. Money has come in subscribing for approximately 1,600, 2,000 more — who will subscribe for them? It would only take \$200.00. God may have put that amount in your hand to use for Him, or perhaps some part of it. The government requires paid subscriptions. Preachers receive the paper most cordially and hundreds tell us how they are helped in their preaching and in their private lives by *The Sword of the Lord*. If God puts it in your heart to help subscribe for these preachers, send the money and every penny will be used according to your instructions. Send *The Sword of the Lord* for a thirteen weeks' trial to as many as you feel led to pay for at ten cents each. We simply ask you to pray, confident that God will put it into prayerful hearts whatever He would have you do. And you may be sure whatever blessing, Bible teaching and inspiration these dear men of God receive from *The Sword of the Lord* they will pass on to their congregations, numbering hundreds of thousands.

## 2,000 More Subscriptions Among Dallas Church Members Wanted

Loyal Dallas people can greatly help by subscribing for other church members in Dallas. If we can get thousands of local readers we can sell local advertising to help pay the expense of printing the paper which has never been self-supporting. We want local readers to visit our great spring Bible School which will be held, God willing, June 5th to 12th with fuller announcement next week. Wicked Dallas needs the testimony of godly people who know their Bibles and are willing to win souls. We feel a special call to minister to the multitudes of good people in all the churches in Dallas who believe the Bible and want to learn it. *The Sword of the Lord* will build up all good churches, will make more faithful Christians, will lead to more fervent soul winning, more consecrated living. We suggest that Dallas readers pray for 2,000 more Dallas readers and that they subscribe for as many Dallas people as possible.

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## THE SWORD OF THE LORD and of John R. Rice

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## "TODAY!"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

running board of my car. I put my arm around her and said, "Are you a Christian?" She said, "No. I wanted to join the church once, but Daddy wouldn't let me. He thought I was too young." As I talked to her, her father said, "I had hoped to have that joy for myself." But I went ahead and won her to Christ. She trusted Him and was saved. Oh, yes, she played all around about him, week in and week out, and all the time he was forgetting that his girl had already an immortal soul, and not only had a soul, but was already condemned, already doomed and lost. Already lost!

We need to come back to these fundamentals.

John 3:18 says:

"He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

As I preached in the jail this afternoon, I said, "I want some man here to be an example. I want someone to tell me when your case comes up."

One man spoke up, "All right, I will. Mine comes up next Thursday." Thursday he is to be condemned, perhaps. But that is not the case of a sinner before God. Every sinner has had his trial, he is already condemned and the wrath of God abides on him, the Scripture says, and we ought to remember that any lost man you see may be in Hell in less than a week. A man where you work may be in Hell in another week's time, another day's time, and you don't say anything to him about his soul. We had better come back to these great fundamentals.

## The Fact of Hell

Another thing we ought to do — we ought to go out and get people saved because of the fact of Hell. There is a Hell. I printed in my paper a few days ago a chapter from my booklet on Hell. I had forgotten the kind of reaction I always get. I am beginning to get letters through the mail from people who do not believe in Hell. One man wrote me and said, "Such a Godless, heartless doctrine to believe there is such a place as Hell! Other people sent me tracts trying to show there isn't any Hell. They say it is a bugaboo the preachers made up to please the people. That is a foolish idea. Preaching about Hell and punishment does not please the people. I was more impressed than ever that I had better preach it. It is so. If the devil can shut the mouths of preachers, and of you parents and of Sunday School teachers, then he can get people to go on in sin without God. He has already condemned, damned the souls of millions, and we need to come back and teach again that there is a Hell, a physical Hell of literal fire where men are tormented in flame, where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched, where the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever, and they have no rest day nor night, the Scripture said. Now, my friends, there is a Hell, a literal Hell. I wish you would get that book of mine of some forty-odd pages, and I wish you would read it, and read it and read it and lay on your heart that there is a Hell and that men go there who die without Christ. Brother Cunningham, somebody may step in your shop tomorrow for something, maybe a boy wanting a bike repaired, or a man to ask about a gun, somebody may step in your shop tomorrow that within a few short days or weeks will lift his fruitless cries in Hell if you don't save the word!

I dare say, far less than half the people in Dallas are Christians. Most of the people in Dallas are lost. The town is full of churches, but we have a town more full of beer joints and gambling joints. Most people in Dallas are uncon-

verted. There are more people being born the first time than are being born again. More people are moving into Dallas than people here are coming to Christ in Dallas. This city needs to wake up to this fact. More people are lost and there is a real Hell they are going to, a Hell of fire and brimstone.

I made up my mind recently that I need to come back and preach the fundamentals. For one thing, if you heard me preach a sermon back yonder, you have forgotten it. And if you remember it in your head, it isn't on your heart. I need to come back again with line upon line and precept upon precept.

There is a real Hell. Every Sunday School teacher ought to feel it and study about it and weep over it and teach it to every boy and every girl you have. Every parent ought to do it. That is one reason people ought to be saved, the fact of Hell. This is no foolishness.

A man was here this morning who is not a Christian. I spoke to him and said, "Are you not a Christian yet?" He said, "No." "You had better be," I said. He said, "I don't believe in that stuff." I don't think I ought to take up with it if I don't believe it.

"You don't believe in it?" I asked. "You believe in a man dying, don't you?" "Sure," he said. "I believe in a man dying." "Well, that is a part of the thing you have got to consider," I said. "There is a Hell, and you had better consider that."

I say this in kindness, a man is a fool that doesn't believe in it. "I can't believe," you say. The Saviour knew your heart, and said, "If you do not believe that I am he ye shall die in your sins," and you will wake up in torment like the rich man in Hell. You had better realize about people dying, people you know who are now unsaved, and who in Hell will lift their fruitless cries if you do not speak to them while you can.

## Heaven's Anxiety

I thought as I sat in my study this afternoon, the little time I had after the jail services, if I could hear the cries of people in Hell, I might get a bit of the anxiety for sinners to be saved that saints in Heaven have. Did you ever go to a home where someone is desperately sick? A woman came this morning before Sunday School. Her father is very sick in Oklahoma, and she had to go. We stopped and had prayer before she went away. She was anxious about it, had tears in her eyes, she was burdened about it. So we prayed. Do you know what it is to have anxiety come over a whole room, a whole family because someone is sick? I remember when Brother Carpenter's brother was sick in the hospital here. They were so burdened.

So there is anxiety in Heaven. There are no tears in Heaven, I guess. If there are tears, they will have to be wiped away. But in Heaven there is anxiety. It could not otherwise be when the Scripture says, "Likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." And, "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

I say to you, there is no sin in Heaven, but some way they bear a burden of desire. I don't fully understand it and I can't express it, but I know in Heaven people look down with anxiety, look with part of the compassion that Jesus had for sinners when He was here and long to see people saved. The Lord Jesus still loves and woos and seeks the lost. I think if we could hear the voice of loved ones in Heaven we would hear them saying, "I hope my boy will be saved." They know what is going on, and are concerned about it. I tell you, my friends, the reason we do not have the rejoicing of Heaven in our

hearts is because we do not have the burden of Heaven, the anxiety of Heaven in our hearts. If we had more sowing in tears, we would have more reaping in joy. If we had the holy, consuming passion of Jesus and of the apostles and of the saints to get people saved, then we would also have the holy joy that abides in the hearts of everyone in Heaven, rejoicing over sinners saved. If we could hear a little of the conversation in Heaven, we would think more of souls and be more concerned about souls.

Oh, my mother when she went away — she had already entered into a part of Heaven before she left, because she said, "I can see Jesus, and my baby now." My mother left all anxiety about who would raise her babies. She went off to leave two little girls and two little boys, the youngest was only about three years old, and the oldest only eight. My mother didn't waste a tear about who would take care of her babies. I believe she trusted God to take care of us.

My mother didn't worry about this and that and the other, the prosperity of those she was now leaving. No, no, no! My mother called us and urged upon us that the first thing was to be saved, that we must meet mother in Heaven.

If folks would get a little love here, a little singing of glory here, they must also get some of the concern over sinners that Heaven has. There is more rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents than over ninety-nine just persons that need no repentance. I guess there is no weeping in Heaven. But the rejoicing is only a part, showing the anxiety of people in Heaven. Lost man, if you knew what is going on in Heaven, if you could hear the testimony of the great cloud of witnesses in Heaven, you would turn and seek the Lord today.

## Testimony of the Man Who Is In Hell

I thought likewise if we could hear the testimony of the doomed, of those in Hell, we would be more concerned about people being saved. Many a man now leads his folks to go to Hell. The rich man led his younger brothers to Hell. Many a man has led his brother to drink, to gamble, to a house of ill fame, and led them to curse. I know. I have seen one boy out of a family be saved and his brothers would talk about him and laugh at him and say, "You will last about three days, that is about how long you will last." "Just wait until you get mad once, and we will hear you curse." "So and so has 'got religion.' He is going to be a preacher!" I have seen boys do that, haven't you? You wait until one gets to Hell and there won't be that kind of talk then.

Just one time the Lord Jesus lifted the lid of Hell so we could hear how the man in Hell talks about his brothers, and there one says, "Father Abraham, I am tormented. Oh, Send Lazarus and let him dip his finger in water and cool my tongue." And Abraham said, "Son, remember. You had your comfort. You had your chance." And after a while he said, "Is there no chance for me?" "No, you are confined there and can't get out of Hell." "I can't get out of Hell?" "No, you can't." "And Lazarus won't come even to comfort me?" "No." "Then only one thing is left. Send him to my father's house. I have five brethren. I don't want them to come to this place of torment. Send him to tell them to repent."

Now, my friends, if you ever for a little bit could hear the testimony of people in Hell, you would not neglect getting people saved. Oh, sinner man, you hear now; I want to lay on your heart. I beg you in Jesus' name to hear, I have got a good chance now you listen to me. I hope you will stop and consider a little bit. Five minutes after you die, you will wish then you had listened to a preacher. I beg you, get right with God before it is too late. If you knew the great facts of eternity, immortal soul, Heaven, Hell, and condemnation, you would repent and turn to God.

All Without Christ Are Doomed  
Another fact I want you to consider on the matter of getting peo-

ple saved now and then I will go on to some other matters. Lost man, I beg you to be saved now. I remind you that without being born again every man and woman in this world is lost, awfully lost, condemned, forever condemned, undone and lost for eternity in torment. That is for every man who has not been born again.

Somebody will say, "Well, I am not very bad." You are bad enough to go to Hell. "I do the best I can," you may say. That isn't good enough. The best you can won't keep you out of Hell. "I have done what they told me to do, someone will say. Doing won't make it. 'I joined a lodge,' they say, or 'Well, I joined a church.' One will save you no better than the other. 'Well, I was baptized and keep the Lord's supper.' That won't save any better than the others. You are no more saved than gambling, women chasing, drunken men if you have not trusted Christ as your Saviour."

No, I tell you, here is one man who is wicked, a gambler and licentious. Another man joins the church and is baptized, takes the Lord's supper. Both will go to Hell, exactly alike unless they are born again. There is no difference, I tell you, your goodness can't keep you out of Hell. Being born again is the only hope anybody has of getting to Heaven. You need a definite change in heart that only God can give and He will give when you trust Him. If you don't have that, you are lost, and lost forever.

## Why Do It Now? Jesus Is Coming!

Lets come back and consider some fundamentals. There are certain reasons why a fellow had better be settled now about his soul. If you are going to be saved, there are certain reasons why you had better be now. If there is anybody you want to see saved, you had better get them saved now. I beg you to listen prayerfully. In the first place, I say this, there is very much evidence that Jesus may come at any time. Jesus is going to come one of these days whether you like it or not. He said, "Therefore be ye ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh" (Matt. 24:44). I am going to lay down my Bible, and lay aside my pulpit and never stand in it any more one of these days. I will never print another sermon in *The Sword of the Lord*. Jesus is coming! I never meet a person down at the jail but some way it tears my heart all out. God moved hearts this afternoon. Some folks were really saved there today, too. I have no doubt of that. But one of these days I will never preach again in the jail again. I will never get a chance to warn someone about his soul. I will never get a chance to head someone off and talk to them about the Lord and win them. I will never go out to Greenville and preach like I did Friday night. I won't have any more chance at that. All my soul winning days are going to be over one of these times. If I am going to win anybody, I had better do it now. Jesus is coming. Jesus is coming!

And if Jesus does not come soon, I may die. A young preacher told me he couldn't get any satisfaction out of selling furniture, out of anything else, and God had been dealing with him these years. He asked my advice. "You had better go to Moody Bible Institute," I told him. He prayed about it and came back last Sunday and said, "I believe it is the thing to do." I wrote Moody's to send all the literature and let's get him off by the 27th of this month. I am afraid some disaster may fall on him if he trifles with God about it. Maybe he will never get a chance to preach if he doesn't do it at

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# "TODAY!"

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once. We had better follow God now. Somebody who hears me tonight will never be back to this church house. If somebody doesn't say a word to sinners tonight, you will never say it to them. If you do not do what you can now, you will never do it. That is the reason Jesus said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

And Christians, I believe that is coming true about war in Europe. Oh, how dreadful; trouble everywhere, and Italy is planning and rattling the sabre, building more submarines, and is nearly equal to the rest of the world in airplanes, and now can put nine million men in arms. And Soviet Russia can put thirteen million soldiers in the field, and France has a Maginot line of steel and concrete fortifications, and is whetting her sword getting ready. Spain is a bloody battle ground, a slaughter house of blood. They have killed priests and nuns and preachers. The Communists have held out about as long as they can, and Mussolini is about to take Spain, and will take it, too. Germany has taken Austria and is about to take Czechoslovakia, and has her eye set on Poland. You and I do not know what the future brings. Japan is already in China, and there are threats against the Philippine Islands. Nobody knows how it will turn out down in Mexico. They are riding for trouble. It may be Communism. Who knows it won't end up with trouble between the United States and Mexico? We don't know what it is coming to, but I know there is ev-

ery evidence that we ought to expect the Lord Jesus Christ to come from Heaven tonight — not tomorrow, but tonight. It ought to be our expectation, yea, our hope, yea, our rejoicing, yea, our glad expectancy that He will come tonight. There is every indication that the time is at hand. I don't know when it will be, but I know it is likely to be soon. If you are ever to get anybody saved, you had better do it now.

Listen to me, if there is a lost man or woman here and you are not a Christian, or if there is a boy or girl here and you are not a Christian—do you love your mother? Do you want to be with your mother in Heaven? Does your mother pray for you? Then thank God for it! I will tell you now, one of these days you will not have a mother to pray for you any more. I went to a funeral one time, and a man wept by the grave of his mother and said, "I will never have mother to pray for me any more." That would be terrible, wouldn't it? One of these days when Jesus comes, the dead in Christ will arise. Christian mothers will be gone. There will be nobody else to weep over you down here, nobody else to warn you. The rest will flatter you if you have anything they want, and if you haven't they will kick you out. But your mother will still love you and pray for you. But one of these days she will be gone. Lost man or woman, boy or girl, if you are not right with God, you had better pray and get right before Jesus comes and takes away the folks you have confidence in. If Jesus Christ comes today or tomorrow or Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday or Friday or Saturday, then next Sunday night there will be no light on in this building. Next Sunday morning there will be no Sunday School, no preaching on the radio. If Jesus comes this week, I tell you my friend, it will be too late for anybody here to be saved and go with Him. Some can be saved later, but they will miss the translation of the saints. God help you to do it now before the great separation when one will be taken and another left. Two men will be in one bed, and one shall be taken and another left. Two women will be grinding at the mill. Two men will be in a field, one shall be taken and another left. Before that happens, if you are ever going to be saved, you had better be saved now. If there are ever any sermons I ought to preach, before Jesus comes, I had better be preaching them. If there is anything I ought to get in my paper, I had better do what I can now! Today is the day of salvation.

Brother Hoover, I am glad to see you back with that trombone. If there is any tooting with that horn you have to do for Jesus, you had better get to doing it every chance you get. You may blow a horn later in Heaven, but you won't do it down here where sinners can hear it. You Sunday School teachers, don't you loaf around on this job. If you ever expect to get anybody saved, you had better get them this week. I don't know when Jesus is coming. You don't know whether you will get to teach next Sunday or not. The time is coming that they will be gone. Jesus is coming. Just how soon I don't know. It is likely to be tonight. We ought to be ready for it. So we had better give our testimony while we can. Today, today! Behold, now is the accepted time, the Scripture said. Behold, now is the day of salvation. And today if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart.

## Hearts Soon Harden

That isn't all. Not only the second coming, but, oh, my friends, people's hearts get so hard. They get so hard. This morning a wife came weeping, coming back to God. She said her heart was so hard and she wanted me to pray for her. Some way I felt impressed

that her heart must be broken or we could never win that man, that poor man who is so hard already. They are just a young married couple. He says he doesn't believe in that stuff. My friend, listen to me, if you are ever going to win anybody, you had better do it now. These boys and girls get up and out and are gone. I had prayer tonight for a thirteen year old boy who is smoking cigarettes and breaking his mother's heart. That mother had better be getting concerned about it. She ought to have been concerned four or five or six years ago. You had better be doing what you are going to do to win your own children and your neighbor's children. Oh, Mrs. Rice, whatever we do for our girls, we had better be doing it. For people's hearts get so hard. It isn't long, I beg you, my friend, do what you can. Sinner, listen, if you are ever going to be saved, why don't you do it now? Did you know one of these days you will be lost forever? You will get to where you won't hear a preacher.

It is a sad thing. You know there used to be a lot of lost people attend these services, but there is a weeding out process, and this is a heart-breaking business. That is one reason why I often feel I must go elsewhere for revivals. There used to be many lost sinners come here. Some got saved. Those that didn't get saved quit coming. A man won't hear the gospel and hear it again and again and keep on going to church. He won't. One of these days he will be drinking booze. Tonight some are at some night club. Tonight others are somewhere else. They are gone. I laid on the gospel hard on a sinner's poor soul, and if he accepted it, well and good. If he didn't accept it, if it didn't touch him, didn't bless him, he doesn't come back any more.

Dr. Truett said he went to a funeral and rode back home with a man. This man said, "Dr. Truett, a peculiar thing has happened to me. Can you explain it? When you first came to Dallas I went to hear you pretty often. My heart would be so stirred when I heard you preach, I would go home and I couldn't enjoy my dinner." He said, "I used to be concerned for hours afterward. I would be upset and deeply concerned and burdened and convicted." He said, "Dr. Truett, your preaching doesn't affect me that way any more, I wonder why."

"You have hardened your heart," Dr. Truett said, "and if you don't beware, you are never going to be saved."

I tell you, my friend, somebody here tonight does not have the conviction he once had. The gospel does not affect him like it once did. If you don't feel a moving spirit like you one time did, if you do not tremble, if you do not cry like you one time did, I beg you, you had better take what conviction you have and act on that. Listen now, if you don't have involuntary attention that is compelled by the preaching, you had better set out to give your attention, instead of running from God when God seeks you, lest you get out of touch and never feel His Spirit any more, never be convicted any more, oh, today, if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart! I wish I could spend an hour talking and lay on your heart line upon line how a man's heart gets seared and hard as he rejects Christ.

I have found that even faithful Christians get so callous about their loved ones. I have known men concerned about others being saved, and have spent a lifetime trying to win souls, and their little children grow up around them — their own children are not saved, and they never say a word to them about it.

I will never forget down in Waxahachie in the big mule barn revival the daughter of a preacher, a thirteen year old girl, a beautiful, lovely girl came to the services and stood there in the invitation time with her mother. She trembled as

I talked to her, and she was saved. Some way I cannot imagine how in the world that man let her go so long without winning her to Christ. He is a prominent Baptist preacher, too. He fought me, and fought the meeting because of things he didn't like. I can't understand how he would let that girl grow up almost into young womanhood and had never won her to Christ. That is a picture of what happens to a sinner. Opportunities neglected mean sooner or later a hardened heart. Today if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart. *Harden not your heart!* It comes sooner or later, a hardened heart.

You say, "Well, won't I have a chance tomorrow?" Maybe so. "Won't God love me tomorrow?" I guess He will. "Won't God's Word still be true?"

Yes, but you won't be ready. I used to have hopes of people being saved when they would leave a revival service and go home and say, "I will be back tomorrow. Before this meeting closes I will be saved." I thought they would be. But I have gotten to where I don't any more. Some way a sadness settles on my heart about such a case. I have no confidence at all about anybody that promises ever to be saved in the future. God does not say, "Tomorrow" or the next

day, but He said, "Today." Behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation. God never did say tomorrow. Your heart will not be tender. If there is a man tonight in this service who says "The Lord is dealing with me. I ought to be a Christian" — if there is a boy or girl saying, "Not tonight, Lord," do you know what you are saying? You are saying, "Old devil, take me and do whatever you want to do with me." The devil says, "Here, I like to have lost you that time! I will fix it so next Sunday night you will be at work. That is a good excuse and you won't go to meeting." Or some church member will come

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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# "TODAY!"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

along and you will lose confidence in him, and little by little Satan will harden your heart, and harden your heart and tomorrow if



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you are alive or next Sunday night your heart will be as cold as ice and as hard as stone.

Christian, if you ever expect to win anybody, you had better do it now. God's time is now. Today is the day of salvation. Now is the accepted time. Today if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart. Christian, win them while you can.

### Beware of Sudden Death

That isn't all. Another reason for being saved now if you are a sinner, and the reason for getting people saved if you are a Christian is the prevalence of sudden death. Oh, the prevalence of sudden death! It is getting to where more people die unexpectedly than expected. More die violent deaths than peaceful deaths in their homes.

Dr. Torrey said in Chicago he came back from preaching and found a note his wife left for him on his desk. As he came in she said, "Archie, a man is dying at such an address. Whatever you do, go and see him before you go to bed." It was eleven o'clock but he went. It was a cold winter night, but he went to this friend's house where the man lay dying. He went and the doctor let him in and they made way for him and he said, "I came to talk to the man about his soul." They got out of the way and he came by the bedside and looked in the man's face.

"Are you a Christian?" Dr. Torrey asked. "No," he answered. Dr. Torrey said, "I began to talk to him about his soul. I told him that Christ died for him," Dr. Torrey said. "Little by little I led him on and held his attention the best I could. He was so feeble. I had my hand on the rail of the bed and I got my face down close to him, and I was telling him the best I knew how to be saved, and suddenly I saw there was no recognition in those eyes. And I listened, and there was no breath coming out of those lips. I was trying to tell a dead man how to be saved."

Oh, my friends, people do die! They die unexpectedly. They die! God's patience sometimes wears out. "Man can always be saved," you say, but you are wrong! He can't always be saved. Sometimes people get a heart hardened. Sometimes people commit the unpardonable sin. Sometimes people die unexpectedly. They die when they are not ready to die. If you have anybody you love and want to see them saved, I beg you, do what you can today.

I went to a country church for a revival. The pastor and I visited a home and had prayer in that home. They told me how a boy in that home died. They told me how he lay there and begged and pled, "Mother, tell me how to be saved!" And the mother didn't

know how. Everybody that would come in, he would ask them. My heart broke. I thought, "Oh, if I had gotten here a few days before so I could have told him how to be saved," but I didn't. You will lose your chance if you don't take it soon. Somebody will come into your apartment and you will think, "I will win them," but the first thing you know, they are gone and you won't have a chance to win them. Somebody will come to your door, and you will say, "I will talk to him about his soul," and finally he is gone, and you think, "Well, he will be back a little later." But he changes his route and he never comes any more. It is a strange thing — the elevator man at the radio — I don't know where he is. Maybe he is perfectly sound and all right. The man who usually takes me to the tenth floor is a Christian. He tells me he is coming out here. But this morning he wasn't there. Another man was there. Oh, how changing life is! A certain person serves you at a restaurant. Then you go back and he is gone. You inquire, and he has left town, or is sick, or dead. You don't know. Time is so short, and people die. They die unexpectedly. They die whether they are ready or not. They die whether they are saved or lost.

And death is an awful fact. We need to come back to preaching about death and warn people about death. People die. 40,000 died in America last year in highway accidents. As they drive they take a little drink, smoke a cigarette. There is light laughter and talk. They see lights coming down the street, there is a screech of brakes, a crash, and somebody's head goes through the windshield, or somebody's head hits a post. Then there is the screaming siren of an ambulance that comes to take up the bodies. They begin inquiry out at the hospital. They do what they can, but in a few short minutes somebody has gone out to meet God, ready or not ready. It does not make any difference.

Coming in from Greenville the other night, Miss Eula asked, "Is this the underpass where the friend we knew was killed?" I didn't know. We passed another underpass and another. I think it was the first one just beyond Garland where it really happened. She said, "I never pass under an underpass any more but what I think that concrete pillar — maybe somebody dashed his brains out there!" The underpass between here and Fort Worth on the old road, I never could pass under that underpass without remembering somebody from Melody Tavern night club in a Packard roadster, crashed headlong into that pillar and went out to meet God! I saw the wrecked car later on. I say to you, my friend, death comes everywhere. Death, death. It is all about us. If you are ever going to do anything for God, you had better do it now. You won't be here long to win souls. There are some you can win, and you had better do it now.

I do not want to be a professional preacher and do a certain stunt and be done with it. I promised God as I planned to preach this sermon, "Oh, Lord, I am going to tell the girls in the office that they had better get out tomorrow and win somebody." I hope they will. I hope before this time tomorrow night Mrs. Ridgway, Miss Lola Mae, Miss Viola, Miss Fairy and Miss Eula — I hope every one will have earnestly and with tears tried to win somebody. We have a lot of work to do, we never catch up. I am trying to get another girl. I need a man assistant, too. There is more work than we can possibly get done. But there is no work like this. We ought to be doing this main thing, getting somebody saved. It is more important than getting out the paper even. It is more important than getting ready sermons even, than building a Sunday School even. Oh, we can win souls through these other things, but a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. One saved today is

better than one that may be saved tomorrow. God gives us grace to do it! Today is the day of salvation.

I remember the time on Tenth and Crawford Streets on the 20th of June in 1933 I preached on *How to Win a Thousand Souls by Christmas*. I asked how many would join me that we would do it by the grace of God. Thirty-three stood up and said, "I will join in winning them personally. I will join with you." What a time of blessing we had! Mrs. Hardesty was there. She lives in Houston now. My wife said, "I will try to win fifty." It wasn't long until she had won over a hundred in that time. Oh, how God blessed, and we had, when we counted up a little past Christmas time, and got our records all in, we had a record of a thousand and five of those who said they had trusted Christ in that time. Don't let your fires get low. Don't let your zeal lag. Jesus is coming! Somebody will die unprepared if you don't win them now!

One night at the great Binghamton revival, a man said, "Oh, my head." He got in his car and started to drive home. His family was with him. He couldn't guide the car, he drove crazily. They said, "What is the matter?" "My head!" Somebody pushed him over, and drove the car home. At midnight they rushed him to the hospital, and at four o'clock the next morning he was dead. That night I had preached on *The Electrocution of Bruno Hauptmann*. He was already condemned to die. I said, "Somebody here will die before Bruno Hauptmann." And that man was dead before the next morning! I tell you, death comes suddenly and unexpectedly. God says, "To-

day is the day to be saved."

Somebody says, "You can't scare me." Maybe I can't. You haven't got any sense. You will die whether you are scared or not. You had better get scared. To die without God is the most awful thing to be afraid of I can think of. Christian, let us do what we can. Sinner, tonight, if you are not saved, today is the day of salvation. Today! Today! Not tomorrow! Now, not some other time; Now is God's time to be saved. Now is God's time to win somebody. Let's do it while we can!

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